

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 15, 21, and 27 - 29 have been amended. Claims 8, 14, and 20 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Claim 30 has been added. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments or added claims, which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 7, 9 - 13, 15 - 19, and 21 - 30 are now in the application.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Pages 2 - 3 of the Office Action dated July 12, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") state that Claims 1, 5, 7 - 10, 14 - 17, and 21 - 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 6,609,198 to Wood et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended their independent Claims 1, 9, and 15 herein to include claim language from now-cancelled Claims 8, 14, and 20, thus more clearly specifying use of placeholders (as discussed in Applicants' specification with reference, for example, to 840 and 845 of Fig. 8). The amended claim language states that the placeholder syntax in the "first sign-on message" received from the client (e.g., message 840 in Fig. 8) represents "a user identification and a password of said user, wherein said user identification and said password are expected in said first sign-on message by said first secure legacy host application" (emphasis added). See, e.g., Claim 1, lines 32 - 36. The server machine "substitut[es] said returned first user identifier and said returned password or password substitute for said placeholder syntax" and forwards that message to the legacy host application. See, e.g., message 845 in Fig. 8 and Claim 1, lines 40 - 43. (See also p. 35, lines 14 - 17 of Applicants' specification, making reference to the earlier

Serial No. 09/619,912

-21-

Docket RSW9-2000-0081-US1

discussion on message flows in Fig. 4 for description of several message flows of Fig. 8, and in particular, see p. 26, line 16 - p. 27, line 6 for a discussion of messages 440, 445, which are analogous to messages 840, 845.)

Applicants have also amended independent Claim 29 to more clearly specify that the placeholder insertion creates a log-on message “in a form expected by said host application” (emphasis added). (See Claim 29, lines 20 and 40 - 41.)

Wood does not teach these limitations, as will now be discussed in more detail.

Page 7 of the Office Action, lines 1 - 5, pertain to the “placeholders” limitation that was previously found in now-cancelled Claims 8, 14, and 20. Page 9, lines 15 - 19 discuss the placeholder limitation from independent Claim 29. In both cases, the Office Action cites col. 13, lines 26 - 44 of Wood as teaching this limitation. The cited text discusses session tokens, which are provided to a browser (lines 27 - 29), and which may be transmitted using cookies (lines 30 - 36 and lines 41 - 44).

Applicants’ claimed invention does not pertain to transmitting cookies to and from a browser. Applicants have clarified their claim language in independent Claims 1, 9, and 15 to specify that the placeholder syntax represents “a user identification and a password ... expected ... by said first secure legacy host application”, as discussed above. The claim language of independent Claim 29 is clarified in a similar manner, as also discussed above. As is well known,

legacy host applications do not expect their input in the browser-type cookie syntax (or, more generally, the browser-oriented session tokens) taught by Wood. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that their independent Claims 1, 9, 15, and 29 (and added Claim 30) are patentably distinct from the teachings of Wood.

Dependent Claims 5, 7, 10, 16 - 17, and 21 - 28 are therefore deemed patentable over Wood as well. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §102 rejection.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Page 10 of the Office Action states that Claims 2, 10, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of U. S. Patent 6,105,131 to Carroll. Page 11 of the Office Action states that Claims 3 - 4, 11, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of U. S. Patent 6,178,511 to Cohen et al. Page 12 states that Claims 23 - 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of U. S. Patent 5,689,566 to Nguyen. Page 13 states that Claims 6, 12, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood and Cohen in view of Carroll, and that Claims 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood and Nguyen in view of Schneier, "Applied Cryptography". These rejections are respectfully traversed.

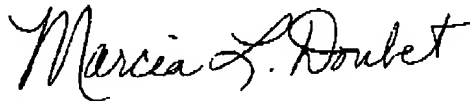
As demonstrated above, Applicants submit that their independent claims are patentable over the teachings of Wood. Any combination of Carroll, Cohen, Nguyen, and/or Schneier with

Wood therefore fails to render Applicants' dependent claims unpatentable. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §103 rejection.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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